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TECHNICAL NOTES

LAKE STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
UNIVERSITY FARM ST. PAUL I, MINNESOTA

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Minnesota Leads Lake States in 1947 Pole Production

A recent canvass by the Lake States Forest Experiment Station shows that Minnesota in 1947 produced approximately 220,000 utility poles, representing about 73 percent of the total output of poles in the Lake States (see table). This continues the trend of recent years in which Minnesota has taken the lead over Michigan, formerly the chief pole producer in the Lake States. In 1947, Michigan ranked second with about 64,000 poles, and Wisconsin third with approximately 16,000 poles.

Pole production on a regional basis has remained fairly stable. About a decade ago, Lake States pole production amounted to approximately 260,000 poles (all cedar) as compared to about 300,000 in 1947. The increase last year was due primarily to a larger output of jack pine and a few red pine poles in Minnesota.

Pole Production, by States and Forest-Survey Units -- Calendar Year 1947

Minnesota		:	Wisconsin		:	Michigan	
Unit	: Number	:	Unit	: Number	:	Unit	: Number
	: of poles	:		: of poles	:		: of poles
Northeast.....	51,000	:	Northeast..	14,000	:	Upper Peninsula	
Central Pine..	47,000	:	Northwest..	500	:	East Half.....	43,000
Rainy River...	113,000	:	Central....	2,000	:	West Half.....	19,000
Hardwood.....	.....	:	Southwest..	.....	:	Lower Peninsula	
Prairie.....	10,000	:	.....	.....	:	North Half.....	2,000
.....	.....	:	.....	.....	:	South Half.....	.....
Total.....	221,000	:	Total...	16,500	:	Total.....	64,000

Information on pole production was obtained from pole distributors and from a check of railroad carloadings in the pole-producing area. In Minnesota most of the cedar poles were produced in the Rainy River area, while most of the pine poles (almost one-third of the State production) came from the Central Pine and Northeast areas of the State. Pole production in Michigan and Wisconsin was entirely cedar. In Michigan, the majority of poles were cut in the East Half of the Upper Peninsula, while northeastern Wisconsin accounted for most of that State's production.

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